

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE ACT OF 1999—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-149)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Rules, and the Committee on the Budget, and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith for your immediate consideration a legislative proposal entitled the "Strengthen Social Security and Medicare Act of 1999."

The Social Security system is one of the cornerstones of American national policy and together with the additional protections afforded by the Medicare system, has helped provide retirement security for millions of Americans over the last 60 years. However, the long-term solvency of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds is not guaranteed. The Social Security trust fund is currently expected to become insolvent starting in 2034 as the number of retired workers doubles. The Medicare system also faces significant financial shortfalls, with the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund projected to become exhausted in 2015. We need to take additional steps to strengthen Social Security and Medicare for future generations of Americans.

In addition to preserving Social Security and Medicare, the Congress and the President have a responsibility to future generations to reduce the debt held by the public. Paying down the debt will produce substantial interest savings, and this legislation proposes to devote these entirely to Social Security after 2010. At the same time, by contributing to the growth of the overall economy debt reduction will improve the Government's ability to fulfill its responsibilities and to face future challenges, including preserving and strengthening Social Security and Medicare.

The enclosed bill would help achieve these goals by devoting the entire Social Security surpluses to debt reduction, extending the solvency of Social Security to 2050, protecting Social Security and Medicare funds in the budget process, reserving one-third of the non-Social Security surplus to strengthen and modernize Medicare, and paying down the debt by 2015. It is clear and straightforward legislation that would strengthen and preserve Social Security and Medicare for our children and grandchildren. The bill would:

- Extend the life of Social Security from 2034 to 2050 by reinvesting the interest savings from the debt reduction resulting from Social Security surpluses.
- Establish a Medicare surplus reserve equal to one-third of any on-budget surplus for the total of the

period of fiscal years 2000 through 2009 to strengthen and modernize Medicare.

- Add a further protection for Social Security and Medicare by extending the budget enforcement rules that have provided the foundation for our fiscal discipline, including the discretionary caps and pay-as-you-go budget rules.

I urge the prompt and favorable consideration of this proposal.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 26, 1999.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

CONGRESS IS TRYING TO STOP THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Kentucky (Mrs. NORTHUP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, this Congress is committed to restoring the faith and opportunity into our government system.

For years, Congress after Congress has dipped into the social security trust fund to pay for new programs with little accountability of how funds were to be used and an empty promise to pay it back. The Congresses of yesterday broke trust with the American people, and now all generations are suffering.

Mr. Speaker, it is enshrined forever in the three opening words of the living document that we swear our allegiance to, our Constitution. Our Founders had the great and good sense to use the words "We, the people." The people is why Congress is fighting so hard to stop the raid on social security.

It is not about which party is in control, who kept their promises, and who broke theirs. It is about having a social security system for the people when they need it, our parents and grandparents who need it now and in the future. It is about maintaining the system so that our children may be pro-

tected, and it is about the price our children must pay to get the same benefits as their descendants did. It is about drawing the line on new Federal spending now, so that our children do not have to continue to fund this never-ending stream of new programs being requested by this administration.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress is very much about the people. We are listening to the conversations around dinner tables, in bingo halls, and in the grocery store parking lots. This is why this House has restored the faith by having every penny in the social security surplus to provide the retirement system for working Americans. It is the common sense of the American people which tells us to stop the raid on social security.

This Congress is using common sense, and will continue the commitment to social security and the people of this Nation. Our only hope is that this administration will stop calling for more spending and make this commitment, as well. We, the people, will prevail again.

ON THE PASSING OF JAMES ALEXANDER FORBES, SENIOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a man that really has made a difference in this Nation, James Alexander Forbes, Senior, a minister who passed away just recently. The funeral was yesterday.

He had eight children. Of course, he educated all of his eight children. They received at least a master's degree, and four of the eight children have doctor's degrees. He did this at the same time he was in school himself. He went to school with his three children that were in college, and he was in college right along with them. Of course, it shows us his commitment to education. He was not able to start out early in life, so therefore he felt it was important to get an education and to encourage his children, as well. He was a man who truly pulled himself up by his bootstraps.

When we look at his family in terms of what the children were able to accomplish, we look at the pastor of Riverside Church, Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Junior, one of the children, of course, and then we have David Forbes, who is one of the outstanding ministers in the State of North Carolina, and then, of course, we have another daughter that is a lawyer here and working in HUD, and then we have several that are in education, and another son that is a psychiatrist practicing in Richmond, Virginia, it goes to show us in terms of the fact that if we are committed, the kind of things we can do. The Forbes family has demonstrated that in a very eloquent fashion.

I also think about how he touched lives. When we talk to people who walk

the street, they will tell us how Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Senior, was able to motivate people. Young people would just sort of come and spend time with him, because he had so much to offer.

I am certain that in his homegoing, that many people wanted to say things and wanted to be part of the ceremony, but were not able to be part of that ceremony because of the fact that he was such a special person.

I remember from my early years, in terms of dealing with him, how he always wanted you to have all the facts, wanted you to have all the information. If you decided to talk to him, if you were not prepared, he would tell you to go away and come back after you have collected all the data.

So I would say to the family and to all the friends of Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Senior, here is a man who has really made a difference in the lives of people. As much as he is gone now, think of the fact that he has touched so many lives, and the people that he has touched. I am certain that he will continue to live through those people that he trained, through those people that he was able to help, through those people that he counseled. I think that will make a difference in terms of their lives as well.

In closing, let me just say to the family that, sure, they are going to miss their dad, their granddad, their uncle, and of course, brother, all of that, and friend. But I think we need to just, at this moment in time, think about the contributions that he has made. I am certain that the angels in heaven are probably being told by God today, step aside, angels, let me handle Reverend Forbes myself, because that is the kind of life that he lived. I think that he would say to the angels, you are not prepared to handle this right now.

TRIBUTE TO DAN GABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues' attention to the career of Dan Gable, an Iowan who has made a unique contribution to amateur wrestling, and in the process, become a hero and role model for athletes in the United States and around the world.

Based on his personal record and that of his team's, Dan Gable may well be the greatest competitor and greatest coach in the history of sports. After winning a series of State championships for Waterloo West High School in Waterloo, Iowa, Dan attended Iowa State University, where he won two national collegiate championships.

Subsequently he won the prestigious Tblisi Tournament in Russia, captured championships in the Pan American games, and the world wrestling tournament. In the 1992 Olympic games, Dan not only won a Gold Medal, but in

the six matches he had to win to do so, he did not give up a single point. It was the first time an American had ever gone through an entire Olympics unscored upon.

Dan concluded his career as a wrestler with an overall record of 307 wins and 7 losses, with no new worlds to conquer. He turned to coaching, beginning at the University of Iowa as an assistant, and soon taking over as head coach.

As head coach of the Iowa Hawkeyes, his teams won 15 NCAA team championships in 21 years, including nine straight between 1978 to 1986, and three in a row on two subsequent sessions.

In listing Iowa University wrestling alongside the New York Yankees and the Green Bay Packers as one of the greatest sports dynasties in the 20th century, Sports Illustrated said, in part:

As terrifying as Dan Gable was to opposing wrestlers when he won the Olympic Gold Medal in 1972, he was just as discomfiting matside as he seemed to will his Hawkeyes to total dominance.

In the final analysis, Dan Gable's influence cannot be measured simply in wins and losses. By precept and example, he has both taught and embodied the values wrestling preeminently imparts: equality of opportunity, discipline, and respect for self and opponent.

There is no more egalitarian circle than a wrestling mat. While all sports involve God-given athleticism, wrestling eliminates the advantages of size and rewards hard work and conditioning. The talented, unschooled athlete simply cannot prevail over the dedicated plugger.

Wrestling teaches a healthy respect for the role of limits in life. All experienced wrestlers know the structure of all the moves. Unlike the professional entertainment that is its namesake, amateur wrestling is devoid of tricks. Yet, within the context of a limited number of moves, each wrestler develops his own style which best reflects his nature, physique, and ability.

Just as the successful wrestler must know his limits, he must understand his opponent, modifying his moves to adjust to his opponent's strengths and weaknesses. Wrestlers learn to live within limits imposed by the exacting discipline of the sport, a sport that is uniquely individualist, yet fosters team comradery.

Wrestling teaches that, as in life, nothing serious can be accomplished without a work ethic. Above anything else, Dan Gable exemplifies the work ethic. In his career as a wrestler and coach, he stands as the apotheosis of American competitive values.

On Sunday, November 14, the cable television channel HBO Signature will air a documentary on the career of Dan Gable entitled "Freestyle: The victories of Dan Gable."

□ 1745

It will introduce millions to this exemplary American athlete. I highly

recommend young people in particular to watch this program with the understanding that excellence is a worthy goal, but it does not come easily.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDI). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MEEKS of New York addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

A.C. GREEN IS A TRUE ROLE MODEL FOR OUR CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, one night last week, I watched Hannity & Colmes on the Fox News Channel. The show featured two professional athletes and a discussion on whether sports figures should be role models.

The men and women our children look to for guidance is an issue I have taken a great deal of interest in, especially in the last few years. In fact, I have come to the House floor a number of times to discuss the lack of morality within our society and its potential impact on our Nation's future.

Too many times the leaders and public figures our children look to for guidance fall short in their responsibility. Thank goodness for men and women at the local level who work to teach our youth the value that they need to succeed in life. They are the parents, the little league coaches, Boy Scout and Girl Scout leaders, and volunteers across this country. These individuals work directly with our children to encourage character and integrity in their lives and the lives of our children.

As Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "The noblest services come from the nameless hands, and the best servant does his work unseen."

Mr. Speaker, I agree with this statement. In fact, I wish that more of our children could see their parents and community leaders as the heroes they truly are. Too often the athletes and actors our children look up to fail our children. They may have money or fame, but their own behavior often lacks the sense of responsibility our children must see in order to succeed in life.

Thank goodness there are exceptions. As I watch Hannity & Colmes, I was most impressed to see one fine athlete